GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:715
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2000
UPGRADATION OF MIG
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MIG-21 fighter aircrafthave been giving major problems and its upgradation having reached its optimum, the aircrafts are to be upgraded again;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure involved;

(c) whether with another upgradation, the aircraft are likely to regain its striking capability and minimise the air crashes;

(d) whether the possibility of an alternative fighter aircraft has been examined; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) There are no major problems with the MiG-21 fighteraircraft. Contract for the upgradation of only MiG-21 Bis aircraft has been signed in 1996. MiG-21 aircraft has never been upgraded earlier.

(b) The contract for the upgrade of 125 MiG-21Bis aircraft was signed in March 1996, with Russia.The total cost of the upgrade is 626 million US Dollars.

The design and development work on two MiG-21 Bis aircraft is being undertaken in Russia, whichis in the final stage of completion. Concurrently, the upgradation of the remaining 123 aircraft has commenced at HAL,Nasik and is expected to be completed by the year 2004.

(c) Avionics and weapons upgrade planned for the MiG-21 Bis aircraft are expected to enhance its striking capability and improve flight safety.

(d) & (e) : Replacement of old aircraft is an on going process. MiG-21 aircraft would also be replaced on expiry of its technical life.